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A CASE OF STONE IN THE BLADDER SUCCESSFULLY TREATED  
BY LITHOTRIPSY,

BY J. RANDOLPH, M.D., LECT. ON SURGERY, ONE OF THE SURGEONS TO THE PENN.  
HOSPITAL AND THE PHILADELPHIA BLOCKLEY HOSPITAL, ETC.

[Reported for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal by the patient.]

I HAVE had paraplegia since July, 1832. About the middle of that month I felt a numbness of the left heel, with a partial loss of power over the bladder. This numbness, which was first felt in my heel, soon extended as far up as the knee. I became clumsy and staggering in my walk, lost the power of expelling as well as retaining my feces, and was obliged to use a catheter. I however continued to hobble about until September, when all motion and nearly all sensation was lost below the lower part of the sternum. In June, 1833, I could retain my urine six or eight hours; soon after I had a disposition to pass it oftener; if I did not introduce a catheter once in three or four hours, some of it would escape involuntarily. In the summer and autumn of 1834, I had to use a catheter four or five times in a night, and had pain in passing my water. It was about this time that I first observed my urine to be mixed with blood, after riding in a carriage.

The first severe attack that I suffered was about the first of January, 1835. I then had inflammation and tenderness of the bladder and urethra, with great pain, strangury, and hæmorrhage from the bladder, accompanied with a good deal of sympathetic fever. Since then, the bladder has never been as well; urine has been constantly morbid, containing large quantities of purulent mucus and blood, with repeated attacks of inflammation of the bladder and strangury. For the last two years I have been obliged to pass my water very often, seldom retaining it more than an hour, and a good deal of the time not more than half an hour, it frequently passing involuntarily, especially at night. It was not till the latter part of the summer of 1836, that I discovered, by sounding, a stone, though I had suspected it for a year previous. I pretty soon made up my mind to submit to *Lithotripsy*, and wrote to Dr. J. Randolph, of Philadelphia, for his opinion.

On the 12th of December I arrived in Philadelphia. On the 13th Dr. Randolph saw me, and ascertained, by the use of the sound, that I had a large stone. He gave me a permit to enter the Pennsylvania Hospital, and I entered the same day.

On the 15th Dr. Randolph again used the sound, and then introduced the *brise-pierre-articulé* of M. Jacobson, not with an intention of breaking the stone, but to ascertain if the instrument would pass. It passed without inconvenience. After waiting a short time for the spasm of the bladder to subside, he opened the instrument (here he met with some difficulty, for the bladder contracted powerfully), ascertained that it would embrace the stone, and then withdrew it. The introduction of the instrument gave me some pain, though not severe, after which I passed out some small fragments of calculous matter, sufficient to show that the stone was soft and composed principally of phosphate of lime.

Dec. 21st. Dr. Randolph, in the presence of a number of medical gentlemen and the medical class, introduced M. Jacobson's instrument and caught the stone twice and broke it. The operation occupied about five minutes; suffering at the time was not great. About two hours after the operation, I had a chill, accompanied with great thirst, nausea and vomiting, which lasted three or four hours. It then passed off by perspiration, and I had a pretty good night. 22d, in the morning, had another slight chill, with nausea, vomiting, headache, and thirst. Kept in bed most of the day. On the 23d was nearly recovered. On the 21st, 22d, and 23d, passed out sand, gravel, and fragments of stone. Dec. 25th Dr. Randolph sounded me, and found the stone broken and much altered.

Dec. 28th. Dr. R., in the presence of the medical class, introduced Jacobson's instrument, caught two pieces and crushed them. The time occupied and pain were about as before. Soon after the operation, I took my dinner as usual. I had no chill, and but very little constitutional irritation. On the 28th, 29th, and 30th, passed fragments of stone.

Jan. 2, 1837. Dr. Randolph again introduced the instrument. After some little time, perhaps two or three minutes, he succeeded in catching the stone fairly and broke it. He then caught another small piece, and withdrew some of it with the instrument. This operation was prolonged more than any previous one, and there was a little more pain. Some increased irritation of the bladder, urethra and rectum, followed this operation. I also had sympathetic fever for two or three days. On the 4th a large fragment passed. It stuck at the orifice of the urethra, and was pulled out with a probe. Another large piece passed on the 8th.

Jan. 11th. Dr. Randolph, in the presence of the medical class, again introduced the instrument. He did not succeed in catching the stone with that instrument, and withdrew it and took one longer and more curved, with which he caught three pieces high up in the fundus of the bladder. The bladder contracted powerfully upon the instrument, as usual, producing some pain. But little constitutional irritation followed this operation, and very few fragments were passed.

Jan. 16th. Dr. R. caught and broke two pieces, after which I passed a good deal of stone, some in large pieces, two of which stuck some time in the urethra. Urine continued morbid, though retained much longer than it was before the stone was broken.

Jan. 26th. Dr. R. introduced the instrument and caught, without any trouble, four fragments. It produced some pain and a considerable hæmorrhage from the bladder, followed by a severe chill. Much more of the stone passed after this operation, than at any previous one.

In the evening of the 29th, a large fragment lodged in the urethra. After making an unsuccessful attempt to extract it, assisted by Dr. Mc Crea, House Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, which produced pain, hæmorrhage, and increased irritation of the urethra, a violent chill followed, attended with very laborious breathing, from the effects of which I did not recover in less than four or five days.

Feb. 12th. Dr. R. caught and crushed two pieces. It occupied two or three minutes, and gave me but little pain. I passed, for two or three days, sand, gravel, and fragments of stone. On the 16th Dr. R. introduced the sound. He found but little stone, or but a few small pieces, remaining. On the 17th a fragment lodged in the urethra which I could not extract, and I pushed it back into the bladder, which had been done once or twice before.

Feb. 18th. Dr. R. caught two or three fragments and crushed them. I passed, for two or three days after, a few small fragments. Did not suffer much from the operation.

Feb. 23d. A fragment of stone lodged in the urethra, which Dr. Randolph attempted to extract, but could not. He then introduced M. Jacobson's instrument and broke two pieces. A severe chill followed, the effects of which lasted two or three days, during which time I passed some quite small fragments.

Feb. 27th. Dr. R. introduced the sound and felt two pieces. 28th. He introduced the instrument and crushed two fragments, both small, after which I passed out some fragments, and was troubled with others sticking in the urethra, which I pushed back into the bladder; they would not pass, in consequence of the urethra having been wounded and made very rough by attempting to extract some large fragments.

March 5th. Dr. R. introduced the sound and found one or two pieces. He then introduced the instrument and broke them. Some soreness and swelling of the neck of the bladder and urethra followed this operation. 6th. Some pain in passing my water, urine turbid, no fragments passed, can feel some remaining. 7th. Urine still unhealthy, and pain in passing it; one small piece passed out at evening.

March 9th. Dr. R. introduced the sound, and felt one or two small pieces; none, he thought, so large as many I had passed. He however introduced the instrument, and caught a small piece and broke it. It gave me considerable pain at the time, and was followed by profuse hæmorrhage and suppression of urine, also by inflammation and swelling of the testes, one of which had been enlarged and painful for nearly two years. The coagulated blood blocking up the urethra, the bladder soon became greatly distended and very painful; it was fifteen or sixteen hours before I got much relief. This was the last time the instrument was introduced. I continued to pass occasionally some quite small pieces, and to be troubled with others sticking in the urethra, which was very sore and rough, until the 12th of April, when Dr. Randolph intro-

duced the sound and felt one very small piece. On the 13th this fragment stuck in the urethra. I attempted to pull it out and used a good deal of force. The urethra being rough and contracted, I imbedded it in the corpus spongiosum. On the 16th Dr. Randolph had recourse to the sound, and could detect no stone in the bladder. The fragment in the corpus spongiosum remained until about the first of May, when it ulcerated externally, and came out, since which I have been entirely free from stone.

*Remarks.*—I think this case goes very far to establish the practicability of *Lithotripsy*. In the first place I had a very large stone, with a good deal of disease of the bladder, prostate gland, and a tendency to hæmorrhage, with some ulceration at the neck of the bladder, where the stone was lodged. The stone was contained in a pouch at the prostatic portion of the bladder, the bladder contracting behind, and forming a sort of hourglass contraction. Besides, I had a partial paralysis of the bladder. This was the only objection Dr. Randolph saw to the success of the operation when I wrote to him; he was a little fearful that I had not sufficient power over the bladder to expel the fragments; but they were expelled very readily, till, by imprudently attempting to extract some large pieces, I wounded the urethra, producing stricture for a time, which prevented any large fragments from passing out; otherwise I should have been cured much sooner. From the loss of power over the muscles concerned in evacuating the bladder, I apprehend that had I submitted to lithotomy, instead of lithotripsy, I must have been left with incontinence of urine. Whereas I can now retain my urine four or five hours without inconvenience.

I cannot close these remarks without acknowledging the obligations which I feel to Dr. Randolph for the lively interest he manifested towards me during my stay at the Pennsylvania Hospital. By his skill I have been freed from a very painful and troublesome disease. Great praise is also due him for the very careful as well as skilful manner in which he uses so powerful an instrument as the *brise-pierre-articulé* of M. Jacobson.

SILAS TOMPKINS, M.D.

New Bedford, May 30, 1837.

[The preceding interesting and valuable case was accompanied by a box containing fragments of calculi, some of them of considerable size. They are deposited for the present in the Cabinet of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, where gentlemen may have an opportunity of examining them.]

#### MEDICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—LEUCORRHOEA AND MENORRHAGIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—In some observations upon the subject of Medical Contributions, in a former volume of your Journal, you invited the members of the profession to contribute, each his mite, towards the general stock of medical knowledge; and hinted that such communications might con-

veniently be made in the letter which conveyed our annual subscription fee. Deeming this suggestion an excellent one, I shall for the future hold myself bound, as I think each of your subscribers should do, to comply with it. Communications thus made, should they fail to interest the profession generally, will at least contain something valuable to yourself. I cannot resist the belief, however, that every physician in active practice has it in his power to contribute some useful hint; something not generally known, or sufficiently adverted to, and of practical importance to others as well as himself. Our reading, and our professional intercourse, constantly afford hints and suggestions, the value of which we test in practice as opportunities offer; and it is scarcely possible that an observing physician, in the course of a life devoted to his profession, can fail of making some useful discoveries of his own, or at least some valuable observations upon the discoveries of others. And after having, by long and patient observation, established the utility of some particular mode of treatment, or favorite prescription, what better can he do than to give his experience to the world? Should all the valuable but isolated facts that human experience has thus established, instead of being suffered to perish with their first observer, be thrown into common stock by publication, it is difficult to conceive the amount of benefit that would thus ultimately be secured to society. A peculiar combination of circumstances may throw in the way of an individual, some method of combating a disease far better than that in general use. New and valuable remedies may thus be elicited, or the use of old ones extended to novel and important purposes. And as we are far more in want of practical facts than of elaborate essays, the limits of a single sheet will be amply sufficient to convey many useful hints. I do not indeed presume on being able to do much myself in this way, but the attempt perhaps may serve as an inducement to others more observing and more competent; and some good can scarcely fail of being the ultimate result. At this time I shall attempt nothing except in the way of reminiscence, taking *menorrhagia* and *leucorrhœa* for the subject.

Formerly these complaints gave me much trouble; *leucorrhœa*, more especially, frequently baffling all my attempts to remove it. For several years past, however, I have so often seen both of these complaints yield to the same prescription, that I think it cannot be amiss to remind those of the faculty who have not already availed themselves of the same remedy, of its great utility. The basis of this prescription, recommended by both Dewees and Eberle, consists of ten grains of nitrate of potassa and five of alum at a dose; to which, for some time, I have been accustomed to add a grain and a half of kino. It is given three times a day, dissolved in a suitable quantity of water. The addition of the kino I was first induced to make in a case in which the other two materials did not seem to produce their accustomed effect; the prescription, with that addition, proving afterwards completely successful. And I can now truly say that for several years I have not met with a single case of *menorrhagia* or *leucorrhœa* that has not yielded promptly to this remedy. As these two diseases usually alternate with each other, there is probably very little difference in their nature, the latter being com-

monly the mere sequel of the former, the serous discharge escaping after the vessels have so far contracted as no longer to give passage to red blood. It is not strange, therefore, that the same remedy should be found to possess an equal control over them both.

But it is not only in ordinary cases of these diseases that this remedy has been found successful. I have prescribed it with equal advantage in a case of leucorrhœa accompanying gestation. Recently, too, I have met with two cases of this colorless discharge in one family, both under the age of puberty, which have yielded promptly to this remedy.

In December last I was consulted by a lady of fifty, of large frame, and robust constitution, whose case proved the most aggravated I have ever met with. She had always menstruated profusely and flooded much in child-bearing; but at this time an overwhelming hæmorrhage, recurring once in two or three weeks, alternated with a serous discharge so profuse that the patient believed more than a pint a day generally escaped her, and sometimes, after a few hours retention, that quantity was discharged at a gush. So great had become the morbid determination of fluids to the pelvic region, that a serous discharge took place several times a day from the rectum; while the sufferer was constantly harassed with a sense of weight, distention and bearing down, and often with great pain. Considerable fulness existed in the lower part of the abdomen; she became alarmingly prostrate; her skin leaden colored, and her countenance expressive of great suffering and of imminent danger. I became fearful of carcinoma, and proposed an examination per vaginam. While she was hesitating at this proposal, the above prescription was ordered, not, however, with much confidence, from an apprehension that its powers would be found quite too feeble to cope with so formidable a disease. In this, however, I was agreeably disappointed. In a few weeks these profuse discharges were reduced within the limits of moderation and safety; the leucorrhœa in two months ceasing altogether. With a view of more speedily suppressing the diarrhœa, pills of acetate of lead with opium were given for a short time, and with success in that particular; but as they disagreed with the patient's feelings, they were soon given up. To the other prescription, from a strong conviction of its utility, she adhered with full confidence until restored to perfect health.

It is proper here to remark that the morbid current which had been so long determined to the pelvic region, continued still to flow that way, after its outlet had become obstructed; causing at first such a sudden and violent distention of the uterus, as to produce intense pain and soreness, and requiring the loss of a considerable quantity of blood from the arm, with frequent fomentations, to relieve it. Before the recurrence of the next menstrual period, however, the equilibrium of the circulation had been so far restored that no further difficulty arose, and the patient is at length restored to firm health.

It is difficult for me to believe that success so uniform can have been accidental; and although others may not be equally fortunate with myself in prescribing this formula, yet I think that, upon a thorough trial, it



will be found to possess a greater control over morbid uterine discharges than any other means now in use.

THOMAS CLOSE.

Saupit, N. Y., May, 1837.

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#### PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—The subjoined case of puerperal convulsions, communicated for the Journal, is submitted to your pleasure. As it is by a full and general record of cases, attended with various success, that we are enabled to decide upon a correct remediate course, perhaps the following may not be destitute of its quota of influence, among the aggregate, in coming to that decision.

On the 12th inst. I was called in consultation to Mrs. R., aged 24 years, a woman of general health, but rather peculiar habit, who was "in a fit." Arrived about two hours subsequent to attack. Patient, for two days previous, had complained of severe headache, and on the present morning experienced it more severely than ever. She was nearly five months advanced in pregnancy. The physician present stated that he arrived soon after the seizure; found her insensible, with a preternaturally full and frequent pulse; took from the arm about six or eight ounces of blood (as much as would flow from the orifice) without any abatement of pulse or symptoms; was preparing for a warm bath when I arrived. I found her in a comatose state, with labored breathing, foam issuing at the mouth, and a sputtering of the lips at each expiration, but no stertor; pulse above 100, and full; pupils of natural size, and equal. Immediately abstracted about 20 ounces of blood from the arm, which flowed freely; exhibited 1 gr. s. morphine; warm bath was dispensed with, as she then was. The paroxysms, most melancholy and appalling to behold, which before occurred every four or five minutes, and continued about one and a half, were now delayed to ten or fifteen, though diminished but immaterially in violence and duration. At the subsidence of each, the livid hue of the countenance, neck, and tongue, by degrees disappeared; the pupils, which were widely dilated, but with no disparity at any time, gradually contracted, as the sensibility of the retina returned, indicating a temporary turgescence of the vessels of the brain. In the interim, she had the power of voluntary motion, but did not recover to consciousness before she was convulsed again.

The dose of morph. was about being repeated, when a third physician came. Half an hour after it was administered, there being no amelioration of symptoms, in conference it was unitedly agreed upon to induce labor forthwith, and accomplish delivery if practicable. On examination, I found the vagina fitly prepared for labor, with the membranes protruding, like a tense sac, two inches or more, from the contracted neck of the womb. After the waters were discharged, only one finger could be introduced, and that with difficulty, through the os tincæ, which was rigidly firm. At each paroxysm the patient failed visibly.

The contractions of the uterus appeared to be purely spasmodic, with no natural parturient effort. After persevering a reasonable time in my attempts to dilate the womb mechanically, I desisted, as from a thing impossible. Before long, a fourth physician, who had been previously summoned, arrived, and made fruitless efforts to overcome the difficulty. While manipulating, a paroxysm had passed—she delayed breathing—every measure was instituted to resuscitate her, but in vain. She survived the attack but about five hours and a half.

*Remarks.*—Although cases of puerperal convulsions are rare, yet those at the above early stage of gestation are still more so, and doubly perplexing. There can be no doubt, in my own mind, that a venesection of ten or twelve ounces, twenty-four hours previous, or even later, would have averted these fatal consequences; but having been bled about a year since, while near the same period of pregnancy, and suffering an abortion, which placed her in imminent peril, she was invincibly opposed to it at this time, for fear the same, or worse, consequences might result.

ALBERT BARTLETT, M.D.

Claremont, N. H., May 20, 1837.

#### DEATH PROBABLY CAUSED BY QUACKERY.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—If the following simple narrative of facts is of sufficient interest for an insertion in your Journal, it is at your service for that purpose.

Mehitable Davenport, a tailoress, aged 32, the mother of one child, was on Thursday, the 20th of April, 1837, taken somewhat unwell; not so much so, however, as to prevent her from visiting a sister in the neighborhood, and spending the afternoon in her company. On Friday, the 21st, she worked at her trade and nearly completed the making of a vest. In the evening she was induced to take a dose of Thomsonian medicine. This kept her sick at the stomach and vomiting most of the night. In the morning of the 22d, feeling no better, she sent to Salem for a Thomsonian or Botanical Doctor, who came and administered a portion of the lobelia inflata. This increased the nausea and vomiting, which continued, with prostration of strength and faintness, until nearly sunset, when her friends, becoming alarmed at her situation, sent for the Thomsonian again. He came and remained with her until nearly 10 o'clock, and then left her, as he represented, and as her friends supposed, "doing well." At a little past 11 o'clock, she expired.

*Examination, fourteen hours after Death.*—Body not emaciated—muscular system well developed and healthy. *Thorax*—adhesions of both lungs at the apex. At this part, and at the root of the lungs, were found numerous calcareous bodies of the size of a bean; more abundant in the left lung. The lungs otherwise healthy; the heart and its appendages perfectly so. *Abdomen*—stomach enormously distended, containing a quart of greenish-brown fluid. *Mucous membrane highly injected and somewhat softened*, giving strips of not more than a quarter



of an inch. Small and large intestines (empty ; mucous membrane of the upper part of small intestines rather softened and thickened. Color a light pink. In the ilium an ulcerated spot, of the size of a split pea. The liver, and all the other organs of the abdomen and pelvis, perfectly healthy. *Head*—veins of the dura mater somewhat turgid ; brain and membranes otherwise healthy.

The examination was made by A. L. Peirson, M.D., of Salem, in presence of Drs. Osgood and Hunt, and several gentlemen not of the profession.

What was the cause of death in this case ?

Danvers, May 25th, 1837.

EBEN. HUNT, M.D.

#### POISONOUS PARTRIDGES AND PIGEONS.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—In relation to the subject of the flesh of partridges being made poisonous from the birds' feeding on the *kalmia latifolia*, or broad-leaved laurel, I may mention a note, which was taken by the present writer when hearing the lectures of the celebrated Dr. Rush. It states, that sixty boys were all taken sick in one night, at Princeton, N. J., from eating of pot-pie, made of wild pigeons, which had fed upon what is called poke-berries, *Phytolacca Decandria* ; in some parts of the country called *skoke*.

The popular name of this plant, in Rhode Island, is *pigeon-berry*, the roasted roots of which are very often used for sinapisms to the feet.

That the black meat of the partridge becomes deleterious from its feeding upon poisonous buds, seems much more probable than that a spontaneous change takes place in the flesh of the bird itself, which, so far as our information extends, would be a perfectly unprecedented and incomparable anomaly, in any part of the feathered or quadruped creature ; at least so far as relates to animals whose flesh is by nature esculent and healthy. We admit, however, that the flesh of wild animals, over hunted, or of domestic animals, over driven, may contract a noxious quality. And of the latter, the lecture before mentioned gives a remarkable instance. It occurred in Massachusetts, and was, as I recollect, communicated by a member of Congress from that State. It was of an ox, which was killed, by its owner, because it was overheated, and sold for beef. Of twenty-four persons who ate of this beef, fifteen died !\*

Of the sixty boys who were taken sick by eating pigeon-pie, we do not learn that any case proved fatal. But the account brings to mind what we have learned to be a popular opinion in some parts of the country, and which is said to have been derived from the Indians. It is, that seasons are sickly, in which pigeons are plenty, their appearance, by the superstitious, being considered ominous. But if we admit the fact, we should, from the statement given by Dr. Rush, rather impute

\* Dr. Rush's MS. Lectures.

the sickness to the unwholesome quality of the pigeon meat, than to flocks of pigeons being an omen of epidemics from some other cause. For when pigeons appear in great abundance, many are taken and used for food.

In relation to the subject of animal food becoming poisonous from the bad quality of the alimentary matter upon which the animal feeds, we need only to hint at the well-known fact of fish. These, from feeding and living in waters where the bed or bottom is a copper ore, become so impregnated with the mineral, as to convey to persons who eat of them the alarming and sometimes fatal effects of the poison of copper. We should be apprehensive of the fish in Lake Superior, from this cause alone. We have, however, never noticed any accident of the kind having occurred in that quarter, for the country around its cupreous banks and shores is yet but sparsely populated. But in some other regions we have had accounts of serious disasters from this cause.

*Lebanon, Ct., May 17th, 1837.*

I am, sir, your obt. servt.

Jos. COMSTOCK, M.D.

## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JUNE 21, 1837.

### SURGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON TUMORS.\*

WITHOUT a design to speak more decidedly than the importance of the subject of the following remarks will justify, we acknowledge that we are not a little proud of the circumstance that a Boston Surgeon has contributed a work on operative surgery which has never been surpassed in the United States. It has nothing to do with the common routine of description in purely elementary treatises; on the contrary, it contemplates that special domain which is always alarming to the patient, and not unfrequently exercises the highest order of intellect in the surgeon, involving also the profoundest attainments in anatomical science. In effect, this splendid work is a chart, to guide the inexperienced operator, as well as to encourage and warn the most skilful, amongst the sunken rocks and dangerous shoals which are continually presented in the track of the general surgeon. Tumors are continually being developed in various parts of the body, so varying in character, so anomalous in structure, and so singularly influencing the functions of life, that of all the departments in the field of human misery, no one has a stronger claim than this upon every medical man's attention—for in America we are all surgeons and all physicians, as circumstances may require.

The vast collection of facts embodied here, which occurred under the immediate eye of the writer, must and will have that weight, as future precedents, in all similar conditions of the diseased body, which the repu-

\* *Surgical Observations on Tumors, with Cases and Operations.* By JOHN C. WARREN, M.D., Prof. of Anatomy and Surgery in Harvard University, and Surgeon for the Massachusetts General Hospital. Boston: Crocker & Brewster, 1837. Pp. 607.

tation of the author is calculated to give them, were there no other combination of circumstances to render them practically useful.

Although it may be said of the medical profession, gratuitously, however, as a foreign traveller once slanderously asserted of the people at large, that every body made books in the United States, it is extremely mortifying, nay, it is a matter of reproach, that so few publications emanate from our surgeons, when it is susceptible of demonstration that the materials are ample, and the necessity for preserving a record of what each one has heard, seen, and experienced in practice, is positively obvious. Dr. Warren, while apparently devoted to the incessant demands made upon his time in a circle of practice perhaps not exceeded in any city of Europe—for no one can do more than be constantly employed—has economized time to such good purpose, as to have written, and beautifully illustrated by colored engravings, this large and exceedingly interesting volume. Whether this is to be considered in the light of a pioneer—a messenger sent to survey the coast, with reference to ascertaining whether another book would find favor—we have no means of knowing; but his competency to prepare others on topics equally interesting, based alone on his personal experience, would not be called in question by those who have witnessed his almost innumerable operations at the Mass. Gen. Hospital.

But to particulars, regarding the dimensions, typographical execution, fidelity of the plates and cost; for these, each and all of them, are in the mind of a purchaser. A clear, firm paper, a fair type, together with six hundred and seven octavo pages, interspersed with fifteen lively colored engravings, by Johnston, are amongst its extrinsic recommendations. The price is a little short of five dollars. A dedication is made to an illustrious man in the annals of modern surgery, Sir Astley Cooper. Section I. relates to *epidermoid tumors*; II. to *dermoid*; III. *tumors of the cellular membrane*; IV. *muscular tumors*; V. *periosteal tumors*; VI. *osseous tumors*; VII. *tumors of the glands*; VIII. *tumors of the secreting glands*; IX. *tumors of the testes*; X. *tumors of the mucous glands*; XI. *tumors of the vascular textures*; XII. *tumors of the membranous textures*; XIII. *encysted tumors*; XIV. *abdominal tumors*.

To minute descriptions of individual cases, are superadded critical remarks of rare value to those devoted to the pursuit which has raised Dr. Warren to distinction in an arduous and responsible calling.

This notice will give the reader an outline, only, of this performance. Without further commendatory expressions, the work is unhesitatingly recommended to the favor of the medical public

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#### MEDICAL MEMORANDUM.

It may be recollected by our readers, that we published, last year, a report of a committee chosen by the Counsellors of the Mass. Medical Society to investigate certain charges made against several members of the Society by a Fellow, which report was accepted by the Counsellors and directed to be published. That report was of a character which certainly did not serve to exalt the individual as to his conduct in this matter, in the public judgment. He immediately and as openly appealed to the community by a reply which carried conviction to all, that he had done nothing but what was prompted by a sense of duty to the accused and to the Society. We are happy to state, that the Society, by the following

unanimous vote at the annual meeting a few days since, did sustain the member in his proceedings, and we trust that even good may come to him for his fearlessness in not shrinking from the performance of what was a positive duty.

On the subject of the report of the Counsellors, on violations of the By-Laws, which was published in October last :—

"*Voted*, That in the opinion of the Society, the Fellow referred to, as the gentleman who had preferred charges against certain members of the Society, is not subject to censure for anything *he has done or omitted to do in the premises.*"

*Anonymous Correspondents.*—The wayward medical student who has sent us a catalogue of the Castleton Medical Academy, post-marked at Woodstock, Vt., upon the blank leaf and margin of which were scribbled insults which he probably presumed he should never be detected in, will learn by this paragraph that he has been identified.

Of all strange fantasies, that which is indulged by some persons interested in a pecuniary way with a medical school, of desiring every one to feel, as they do, madly hostile to all other institutions of the same kind, even to dirking a man who happens to have no partialities one way or the other, is the most extraordinary. We have no personal acquaintance with any individual of the Castleton faculty ; we never, at any time, exchanged a letter with them, nor have we been invited, importuned, or even modestly asked to notice their medical academy in any form whatever. Their advertisements have been inserted annually in the Journal, like those of others, and from that source, and their catalogues, we have gathered what little we know of their operations. It is all alike to us who prospers—for we have no partialities. If we were to make mention of any feeling, it would be to express a hearty good will towards every medical college and every professor. Of what possible consequence can it be to us, personally, whether one of them numbers ten students or ten hundred ? Our patronage does not depend upon the mighty fiat of some great man of his own town, who, like the naked African king, seated upon a stump, eating rice with a wooden spoon, said to a visiter, "*What do they think of me in Europe ?*" Ours is intended to be an impartial and a generous course, having steadily in view the progress and respectability of the profession, and the promulgation of all that is new or useful connected with the science of medicine, regardless of the petty local disputes which may arise between rival institutions.

*Quackery defeated in Connecticut.*—We find the following notice, in a New Haven paper, of the final proceedings of the Connecticut Legislature on the petition of the Thomsonians.

"Bill authorizing collection of reasonable compensation by any person employed as a physician or surgeon, read second and third time.

"Mr. Phelps, of Manchester, moved its indefinite postponement.

"Mr. J. C. Palmer thought that the petition of fourteen or fifteen thousand citizens ought to be entitled to some consideration ; at least the House should be prepared to assent or deny the petition ; that common courtesy required this, at least, at the hands of the members.

"Motion to postpone indefinitely withdrawn. Motion to lay on the table negatived.

"Passage of the bill advocated by Mr. Welles—opposed by Dr. Abernethy, Dr. Vail, and Mr. S. Raymond. Bill on the final question negatived." About 20 affirmative.

*Medical School of Virginia.*—Some little time since we adverted to the medical department of the University of Virginia, with a view to glean something which should enlighten the medical public in New England, in regard to its operation. To Dr. Dunglison, and a subscriber in Charlottesville, we make acknowledgments, and thank them for their kindness in sending to our address the catalogue of 1837. After a perusal of it, we are impressed with a belief that the Virginia School is organized on as good a plan as any other in this country. An extract relating to the medical department cannot be otherwise than interesting to readers here at the north.

"1st. *Chemistry and Materia Medica.*—There are two classes in this school; one of chemistry, to which there are lectures given twice a week; and the other of materia medica and pharmacy, to which is given a lecture once a week throughout the session.

"In the chemical lectures, all the important applications of the science to the mechanic arts, agriculture and domestic economy are noticed, and when practicable, illustrated by experiment. In the lectures on earths and metals, the appropriate minerals are exhibited and noticed with reference to the sciences of mineralogy and geology."

"In the lectures on materia medica and pharmacy, the subjects are treated in the following order:—The operations of pharmacy, pharmaceutical preparations, the effect which the combining of different substances has on their medicinal properties, the different classifications of the materia medica, and lastly its several articles treated alphabetically.

"There is attached to this school, a very extensive apparatus and laboratory.

"2d. *Medicine.*—The subjects taught in this school are the theory and practice of medicine, obstetrics and medical jurisprudence. The last forms a distinct class, and comprehends other students in addition to those of medicine. A full course of lectures is delivered on each of the above branches. In the theory and practice of medicine, Eberle's work on that subject is recommended as a text-book; in obstetrics, Burns, Dewees, or Gouch; and in medical jurisprudence, Beck or Ryan.

"3d. *Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery.*—In anatomy the lectures are delivered from *subjects*, with which the school is regularly supplied. The text-book is Horner's Special Anatomy. In surgery, the text-book is Cooper's First Lines. In physiology, the text-book is Dunglison's Human Physiology. This and the two preceding schools constitute the *Medical Department* of the University; and the candidates for the degree of 'Doctor of Medicine,' must pass examination in them all. An extensive museum is attached to this department. It possesses one advantage, at least, over the other medical schools in the United States, in having a session of more than *ten months*, instead of one of about four.

"A full course of lectures in the Medical Department of this University, is considered as equivalent to a full course in both the Philadelphia and Baltimore Schools; so that a student with a certificate from this University of having attended a full course of lectures here, is entitled to stand for graduation at either of the above named schools, after having attended all the lectures there delivered for one session only.

" *Degrees.*—No particular period of study is prescribed for the acquisition of these honors. The student obtains them whenever he can undergo the rigid examinations to which the candidates for them are subjected.

" The title of Doctor of Medicine is conferred on the graduate in the medical department.

" On the last day of the session, the visitors, faculty, officers, and students, assemble in the rotunda, and the public are invited to attend. On this occasion, the certificates and diplomas are awarded to the successful candidates, the results of the examinations are announced, and orations are delivered and essays read by students appointed for that purpose."

The total expense for the session of upwards of ten months (commencing the 1st of September and ending the 4th of July following), exclusive of books and stationary, clothing and pocket money, \$238.

The number of students in the school of medicine at the session for 1836-7, was 55 ; in that of anatomy and surgery, 61 ; chemistry and materia medica, 130. Whole number from the commencement of the University in 1825—medicine, 415 ; anatomy and surgery, 390 ; chemistry and materia medica, 746 ; medical jurisprudence, 64.

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*Goitre in New Grenada.*—It seems to be the opinion of some physicians of New Grenada, that a *deficient use of salt* has a tendency to promote that dreadful deformity, or swelling of the glandular apparatus of the throat, called goitre, which appears to prevail extensively in some districts of that country. As a remedy, the people resort to the internal administration of iodine, sea-water frictions and acétyé de sal, and oil of salt, so called—the drainings from rock salt.

The condition of the roads, inaccessible for the most part to wheel carriages, with rapid rivers, navigated generally by canoes, makes transportation so dear, that with the high price created by the government monopoly, salt, says Dr. Gibson, in a late communication to the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, is much economized. Strangers find themselves obliged to carry a lump of salt with their baggage, to add to the usual very scanty seasoning with it in cooking. A salt cellar, continues the doctor, is by no means thought an indispensable part of the table equipage, and in many instances it will be in vain called for. A North American vessel was found at Buenaventura, on the Pacific, with salt brought from the Sandwich Islands ; this, inclosed in hides, was conveyed up the rapid rivers into the interior, although by nature so amply supplied with it.

A Spanish physician of reputation at Bogota, assured Dr. Gibson that dogs and cats were occasionally subject to goitre, and that he had seen instances in both, although he was not aware that it prevailed in any other domestic animals. Whether some clue to its origin and causes may be discovered by the fact that those animals which feed upon the offals of our table are alone affected by that peculiar disease, remains yet to be ascertained. Whatever may be thought, continues the writer, upon the subject of the use of salt (habitually, we suppose he would be understood), there appears to have been, from ancient date, very decided opinions upon the utility of the general use of this important article, which is craved with great ardor by many animals. It is a well-known



token of hospitality and confidence among the Arabs, and the ancient Hebrew moral law enjoins its employment as a point of religious as well as of physical propriety.

The determination of the wild animals of the West to gratify a craving appetite for salt, and particularly the buffaloes, constitutes a remarkable feature in the natural history of primitive America. Salt licks, as they were called by the hunters, to which beaten paths led from great distances, the common highway of all kinds of forest inhabitants from immemorial time, are not yet wholly obliterated by the upturning disposition of man, although the races, of which they are faint memorials, if not quite extinct, have retreated in remnants to the unexplored regions of the great West.

All the true thorough-going dietetic reformers of the present day—the loco focos in culinary philosophy—if we are rightly informed, eschew salt as they would a haunch of venison.

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*Plates of the Eye and Ear.*—A few weeks since, reference was made to an importation of a few of these illustrations by Mr. Curtis, who is designated as an aurist. We have reinspected them, fearing that we might, perhaps, have been too much in a hurry at the time of the former notice; but, after all, feel constrained to repeat the remark that they are not any better than those of other authors. The subdivisions of diseases of the organs of sense into genera and orders, so far as the study of the plates themselves is concerned, is very well, perhaps deserving more commendation than we like to bestow before subjecting the whole to a third analysis. In the mean time, our friend Ticknor, at the corner of School street, who is abounding just at this juncture in a fine assortment of medical literature, both foreign and domestic, will be quite happy to exhibit Mr. Curtis's productions.

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*The Georgia Medical Society*, which was chartered nearly forty years since, but which for several years suffered by neglect to such a degree that their charter became void, has recently been re-organized and re-chartered, and a commendable degree of zeal seems to be manifested among its members. It holds its meetings on the first Saturday in every month, in Savannah, where its members mostly reside—corresponding members, however, residing in different parts of the State. At each meeting an essay is read by some member of the Society, a copy of which is deposited with the Secretary.

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*Medical College of Georgia.*—At the Annual Commencement of the Medical College of Georgia, held on Wednesday, April 19th, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon fourteen graduates.

We are happy to learn that at a meeting of its Trustees, it was contemplated to create two new professorships; one, of the institutes of medicine and medical jurisprudence, and the other of physiology and pathological anatomy. We doubt not that competent gentlemen will receive these appointments, which will increase the number of professors in our medical college to eight.

The number of students attending the lectures in this institution the past season was 47, being a considerable increase over that of any former period.—*Southern Med. Jour.*

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—W.'s remarks on the treatment of insanity, Dr. Deane's case of congenital fissure of the palate, and Dr. Savery's case of caries of the bones, are on file for publication.

**DIED.**—At Paris, Mr. W. B. Sawyer, an American medical student.

Whole number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending June 17, 24. Males, 11—Females, 13.  
Consumption, 3—catarrh, 1—dropsy in the head, 2—dropsy, 1—fits, 1—suicide by hanging, 1—delirium tremens, 1—smallpox, 1—marasmus, 1—typhus fever, 1—gangrene, 1—old age, 1—infantile, 1—stillborn, 2.

#### RETREAT FOR INVALIDS AND INSANE IN PEPPERELL.

DR. N. CUTTER respectfully informs his friends and the public, that having completed the very extensive and important improvements to his establishment which he has for some time contemplated, he is now prepared to receive an additional number of patients. Another large and commodious building has just been erected, more particularly for the occupation of invalids, his pleasure-grounds have been improved, and such arrangements made as to secure his personal attention exclusively to the medical treatment of his patients. Able and experienced nurses will be in constant attendance, and every exertion made to render the establishment agreeable and useful to those who may be under its care.

3t—June 21

Pepperell, Mass., June 1, 1837.

**NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY**, and the collateral branches of Science, conducted by a number of Physicians—from 1812 to 1837, 16 vols. half bound. This valuable work is now nearly out of print. One set for sale, at a low price, if applied for soon, to

W. D. TICKNOR,

June 21.

Medical Bookseller, corner of Washington and School Sts.

#### NEW MEDICAL BOOKS.

**WILLIAM D. TICKNOR**, Medical Bookseller, corner of Washington and School streets, has just received, Surgical Observations on Tumors, with Cases and Operations; illustrated with many colored engravings. By John C. Warren, M.D. Price \$4.50.

A Treatise on the Malformations, Injuries and Diseases of the Rectum and Anus; illustrated with plates. By George Bushe, M.D. Price \$3.25.

Also as above, may be found, a very complete assortment of Medical Books, which will be sold on the most reasonable terms.

June 14.

#### MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE Medical Lectures at Dartmouth College will commence on *Thursday*, the third day of next August, and continue *fourteen* weeks.

Anatomy, Surgery, and Obstetrics, by	R. D. MUSSEY, M.D.
Physiology, Mat. Med. and Legal Med., by	D. OLIVER, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by	J. DELAMATER, M.D.
Chemistry and Pharmacy, by	O. P. HUBBARD, M.D.

Fee for the course, \$50. Matriculating fee, \$2.

J—73w

Hanover, N. H., May 26, 1837.

#### THEODORE METCALF—APOTHECARY,

NO. 33 Tremont street, ten doors north of the Tremont House, devotes his chief attention to compounding prescriptions; and assures physicians that, in his establishment, no persons will be entrusted with this duty, except those of skill and experience, and no articles used but those of the best quality.

T. M. keeps no *quack medicines*, but chooses to rely for support upon regular practitioners and their patients. He is permitted to refer to Drs. Jackson and Reynolds.

May 24.

3m

#### TO MEDICAL STUDENTS.

THE undersigned are associated for the purpose of instructing in all the branches of Medicine and Surgery. A suitable room will be provided, and pupils will have the use of an extensive medical library, opportunities for seeing the practice of one of the districts of the Dispensary and of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and of attending a course of lectures on the diseases of the eye.

A regular course of recitations and examinations will include all the required professional works.

Anatomical instruction and private dissection will form a prominent part in the study of the pupils. For further information, apply to either of the subscribers.

Franklin Street, Nov. 9, 1836.

N16—tf

JOHN JEFFRIES, M.D.  
R. W. HOOPER, M.D.  
JOHN H. DIX, M.D.

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